

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 111, ISSUE 58

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

www.dailytarheel.com

Cuts take toll on class choices

BY JENNIFER IMMEL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Today is the last day to add classes, but it's not indecision or pickiness about courses on Friday or at 8 a.m. that are holding up students.

It's the fact that not as many classes are available this year.

In the third year of UNC's budget crisis, cuts are affecting the number of course sections offered.

Since 2001, UNC has faced more than \$50 million in budget cuts from the N.C. General Assembly.

Programs such as Arts Carolina and HEELS 4 Health were eliminated entirely to help alleviate the problem, but this

year the classroom also is bearing some of the burden.

Richard Soloway, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that although the college did not cancel any required courses this year, many recitation sections were cut to offset the loss of about \$5 million in the college's budget.

Some lecture classes also were made bigger to account for the University's increased enrollment.

"The overall budget declined, and the overall number of faculty declined, and the overall number of students increased," Soloway said.

The continual budget cuts have given faculty bigger classes to teach and have left

less funding for teaching assistants to lead discussion sections.

The loss of money suffered by the College of Arts and Sciences meant that 25-30 fewer faculty than usual were hired this year. Most years, vacant faculty positions would mean more money for teaching assistants, but this year the college had to give that money back to the state, Soloway said.

Provost Robert Shelton said the number of vacant positions is one of the main problems facing UNC this year.

"The budget cuts don't allow us to fill faculty positions with faculty and they don't allow us to fill faculty positions with TAs," Shelton said.

Because of the drop in recitation sections, professors have had to deal with longer lines at their classroom doors and a flow of e-mails requesting special permission for enrollment.

The New York Times reported last month that 1,000 UNC students were closed out of introductory Spanish because there were not enough sections.

The University since has rectified the problem, leaving only about 100-150 students unable to enroll in the class this semester. To meet the increased demand from students, many professors across campus overenrolled their classes by as

SEE CLASSES, PAGE 4

Age, cuts usher in teaching shortage

BY STEPHANIE HORVATH
SENIOR WRITER

A number of UNC department heads are struggling with a nearly impossible equation.

Begin with a large number of aging faculty approaching retirement. Add some state budget cuts that are keeping salaries low and throw in the confounding factor of faculty tempted by lucrative offers from other universities.

Finally, add to the equation the fact that there are fewer young professors in the job market.

The result is a faculty shortage. Many campus departments and schools are trying to balance their limited resources between retaining faculty members and hiring new ones before the older faculty retire.

Such resources already are stretched thin.

Last month's U.S. News & World Report college rankings showed an eight-point drop for UNC in the category of faculty resources.

Like many University schools and departments, the School of Education is feeling the pinch. The school, in which the average faculty age is 54, was hit with a number of faculty retirements in recent years and is looking for replacements, said Interim Dean Fenwick English. English said hiring will be made harder by state budget cuts that don't allow him to offer highly competitive salaries to a small pool of applicants.

"We're going to do everything

SEE FACULTY, PAGE 4

EDGERTON'S 'KILLER' COMEDY TURNS TO SONG AND DANCE

Book transformed into blues stomp

BY MICHAEL PUCCI
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

If your appetite for unorthodox religious comedies hasn't been sufficiently satisfied lately, "Killer Diller," a new musical in Studio Six Theatre in Swain Hall, might be just the cure.

This two-act production, based on the Clyde Edgerton novel, has returned to the University until Sept. 14.

It initially was presented in a one-hour workshop format at the 2002 N.C. Literary Festival.

Writer/director Paul Ferguson said that what audiences saw last year was the culmination of a year's work on the script and that it required input from Southern writers at the festival as well as additional funding.

"The things we wanted to say about race, the blues, about romance — we couldn't tell those stories until (the show) reached two hours," he said.

The off-beat plot concerns Wesley Benfield (John McGrew), a semi-reformed juvenile delinquent forced to make a life-altering decision: whether to be an evangelical priest or a blues musician.

What the story seeks to emphasize is how making such an important decision in the pursuit of happiness ultimately is a most courageous undertaking.

Meanwhile, Wesley finds himself infatuated with Phoebe (Sarah Kocz), a member of the local Christian weight-loss center. His confusion about how to express his affection without betraying his religion provides another humorous subplot.

"I love the character development between the two of them and how he's always been biased against women of size but finds that for some reason, when he meets her, it's not even an issue," Ferguson said.

Edgerton, who collaborated with Ferguson and the actors during the musical's development, noted that something as

SEE KILLER DILLER, PAGE 4



Above: Wesley (John McGrew) and Phoebe (Sarah Kocz) discuss their relationship in the musical "Killer Diller," based on the Clyde Edgerton novel. Below: Shanita (Erica Ross) makes a point while rehearsing for her group's upcoming performance.

Musical gets by on irreverence



BY BRANDON WHITESIDE
STAFF WRITER

"Killer Diller," a musical adapted from a Clyde Edgerton novel, is a story about the lives of halfway house residents seeking a balance between the temptations of youth and the pressures of their conservative North Carolina environment.

The cast — in large part composed of UNC graduates — features roles including petty thieves, a slick radio DJ and an autistic boy obsessed with tomatoes.

The result is a varied array of characters populating the play's Southern environment — a world tied to contemporary America while still maintaining an old-time, rural undertone.

Essential to this backwater feel are the stage setup and the swampy

PLAY REVIEW
"KILLER DILLER"

★★★★☆

IF YOU GO

Date: Through Sept. 14
Time: 8 p.m. Thurs., Fri.; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sat.; 3 p.m. Sun.

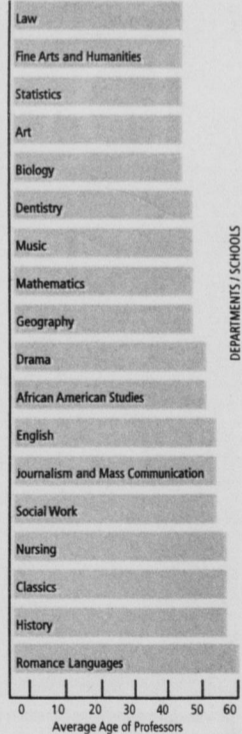
Location: Swain Hall
Info: www.rideagain.org

blues score performed by an in-house band, segueing the scenes. Bulky wooden gates conceal the band during dialogue but are drawn open for each performance.

The main character is Wesley

SEE REVIEW, PAGE 4

Aging Faculty at UNC



SOURCE: UNC DEPT. OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
DTH/MICHAELA IDHAMMAR

State's support of UNC could become peripheral



BY ALEX GRANADOS
STAFF WRITER

As the UNC system is saddled with cutbacks induced by the state deficit, officials at the system's 16 schools increasingly are forced to look to outside sources for funding.

But as schools at "the university of the people" open to those outside sources, the system's ability to serve the needs of North Carolina has come into question.

The largest proportion of state universities' budgets still comes from the state, but as schools turn elsewhere for

funding, the state's money might become peripheral — a serious concern for higher education officials.

Brad Wilson, chairman of the UNC-system Board of Governors, said that he is concerned about the system's survival and that he does not want to see the state's funding relegated to a supporting role.

Wilson addressed this issue at the BOG's August meeting, distinguishing between a state-funded university system and one that is merely state-supported.

"There is a difference," he said at the

meeting. "A big difference."

UNC-system schools have seen their percentage of state funding evaporate slowly over time, and recent budgetary decisions have further dried that well.

During the 1991-92 academic year, for example, UNC-Chapel Hill received 34.4 percent of its budget from the N.C. General Assembly. This percentage has decreased every year since. For the 2002-03 school year, UNC-CH only received 23.8 percent of its total budget from the state.

In the state budget for 2003-05, the

system suffered more than \$61.7 million in flexible budget reductions — about 4 percent. The budget calls for the BOG to raise all students' tuition by 5 percent.

Bigger classes, higher course loads and fewer available courses are only some of the coping mechanisms system schools must use.

Schools increasingly have to rely on corporate grants, fund raising, alumni and other outside contributions, said Melvin Johnson, provost of Winston-Salem State University.

But it is not certain that the univer-

sity system, weaned on the state, can provide its own sustenance from sources outside the legislature while still providing as many services to a public that depends on it.

Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance, said outside sources will not be able to fill the hole left by the state perpetually.

"I think we are still heavily reliant on state funds," he said. "I don't think we can make up, from outside resources, all that funding."

SEE SUPPORT, PAGE 4

HELP WANTED

DTH INTEREST MEETINGS
Today, 8:30 p.m., Union 226
Thursday, 5 p.m., Union 226



SPORTS

TROUNCED
Tar Heels can't stop the 'Noles offense in 37-0 loss PAGE 14



INSIDE

REACHING OUT
Carboro Alderman John Herrera spends weeks in Mexico PAGE 6

WEATHER

TODAY Partly Cloudy, H 90, L 68
WEDNESDAY T-storms, H 89, L 68
THURSDAY T-storms, H 86, L 67

